

Appl. No.: 10/804,925
Docket No.: DB001089-000
Amdt. Dated: 17 October 2007
Reply to Office action of 17 July 2007

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 18 - 30 are currently pending in this application.

In the Office Action of July 17, 2007, claims 18-20, 22-25, 28 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. 4,728,584 to Isenberg. Also, claims 21, 26 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Isenberg in view of U.S. 4,827,606 to Szreders. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections with respect to the pending claims, as amended.

Neither Isenberg, Szreders nor any other prior art reference of record teaches or suggests, alone or in combination with other references, a fuel cell assembly having the following elements as now recited in claims 18 - 30 including:

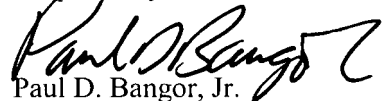
“a plurality of elongated electrical connectors each made of sheet material having at least two curved surfaces, a first contact for coupling with a first fuel cell and a second contact for coupling with a second cell, wherein each of said first and second contacts comprises a plurality of parallel, open slots disposed along an edge of said sheet material which define a plurality of flexible members, and wherein each of said electrical connectors is disposed between at least two of said elongated tubular fuel cells.”

Because the electrical connectors of the fuel cell assembly of the present invention as recited in claims 18-30, as amended, are not disclosed in the prior art, Applicants respectfully submit the pending claims 18-30 are not anticipated by Isenberg or unpatentable as being obvious over Isenberg in view of any other reference.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the instant application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early Notice of Allowance for claims 18 - 30 is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would be beneficial to advance prosecution of the application to early issue, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0888.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul D. Bangor, Jr.
Reg. No. 34,768
Thorp Reed & Armstrong, LLP
One Oxford Centre
301 Grant Street, 14th Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
412-394-7767
Attorneys for Applicants

Dated: 17 October 2007